News & views from where you live

Cambridgeshire County Council

Your Cambridgeshire

Issue 11 • Autumn 2010

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Spray time at Grafham Water Centre

» **The Big Society** - have your say «

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Is your child due to start secondary school in September 2011?

Did you know that there is no automatic transfer to secondary school, and that you need to apply for a place for your child?

You need to make your application by the closing date of 31st October 2010.

Applications can by made from 12th September 2010 either online at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/admissions or by using a paper application form which can be obtained from your child's current Cambridgeshire school or from the School Admissions Team – simply email admissions@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or telephone 01223 699200

LEADER'S COLUMN

Welcome to the Autumn edition of Your Cambridgeshire.

It will come as no surprise to you that local government is having to tighten its belt because of the financial squeeze on public services.

We are devoting a lot of time to listening to your views at the moment. It's important to me that we hear what you have to say and take your views on board.

There will be less money to go around and it may mean that some servicies will end, but there is another possible approach, and that is around the concept of the "Big Society" - please take the time to comment. See page 29.

Also in the magazine we look at a subject close to my heart - road safety. In Fenland we have responded to local concerns about the Forty Foot Bank Road and we are confident we've made this notorious road much safer.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all those Cambridgeshire students who did so well in the latest round of A level and GCSE results.

Jill Tuck

Councillor Jill Tuck, Leader, Cambridgeshire County Council

'On the fridge'

A quick guide to finding the County Council services you need

For all your County Council news, useful information and services go to www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Contacts

General Enquiries - 0345 045 5200
Libraries - 0345 045 5225
Highways - 0345 045 5212
Adult Social Care - 0345 045 5202
Children's Social Care - 0345 045 5203
Out of Hours Social Care (5.30pm to 8am and all weekends) - 01733 234724
Blue Badges - 0345 045 5204
Registrations (births, marriages, deaths, civil partnerships) - 0345 045 1363

Council Meetings

Most council meetings are open to the public - dates and details are available online under Council and Democracy, displayed at council offices or from local libraries.

Feedback

Customer feedback about our services is important to us - whether it's a compliment, a suggestion or a complaint. Here's how you can tell us what you think

Phone: 0345 045 5200
Complete: a Customer Service form at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Email: feedback@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Write to: Customer Feedback, Cambridgeshire County Council, RES1225, FREEPOST CB176

Follow us on Twitter: cambscc

Follow us on Facebook: cambridgeshirecc

Please recycle this magazine when you have finished with it

Other formats
If you would like a copy of the magazine in large print, Braille, audio tape or another language, please call 01223 699287

Your **Cambridgeshire**

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Vibrant new look at Grafham Water Centre

Six young people have swapped water spray for spray cans to complete a huge 45 metre graffiti arts project at Grafham Water Centre.

The 16 to 19-year-olds took part in the County Council's UProject. This helps school leavers who are not in employment, education or training to learn new skills and build confidence.

The team, who call themselves Vibrant, took up the challenge in their own time as they are now either volunteering, at college, or have an apprenticeship thanks to the project.

The UProject has been running across Cambridgeshire for eight years and within the last year has worked with 182 young people between 15 and 17 years old. Around 90% of the young people who have been given training under the project remained in education, employment or training.

The mural, which is as wide as a football pitch and depicts some of the great activities at Grafham Water Centre, is being funded by money from the charity Youth Bank, following a bid by the six teenagers supported by their Connexions worker Dawn Carter.

Melissa Ewart, one of the young people involved in the project said: "It's a real sense of achievement because we've been able to do something positive."

Ian Downing, Grafham Water Centre Manager, said: "We are really excited about this art project and I cannot wait to see the final results. It is a huge task to complete such a gigantic project in just three days but I know the team of youngsters will do a great job and have fun at the same time."

Cllr Martin Curtis, Cambridgeshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Children, said: "A lot of hard work has already been done by this group of teenagers to get the funding they needed to carry out this project and they should be congratulated. A project of this size will need a lot of team work and co-operation which are some of the skills that will help them in the next few years."

Grafham Water Centre has a wide variety of activity courses available covering sailing, canoeing, kayaking, windsurfing, climbing, archery and more. There is also a wide variety of youth courses including the Discovery Club, a multi-activity week for young people. With such a wide range of activities there is something for everyone. Stuck for a gift idea? Why not purchase a gift voucher - the perfect present for Christmas, Birthdays or any special occasion! For more information on any of the courses or to purchase gift vouchers, contact the Centre on 01480 810521 or visit www.grafham-water-centre.co.uk

Satisfaction high on County's buses

A national survey has revealed 88 per cent of Cambridgeshire bus passengers are satisfied with the county's bus services.

There was good news in other areas too:

- 91 per cent said they could get a seat.
- 81 per cent were happy with the length of time the journey took.
- 80 per cent were happy with the journey's smoothness.

Although the County Council does not run buses we know residents want good public transport services which is why we work closely with bus operators to try and help make improvements.

Councillor Mac McGuire, cabinet member for highways and access, said: "Thousands of people use our bus services every day and it is really encouraging to see how well Cambridgeshire has performed. I know the huge efforts which go into ensuring that levels of service are high."

Fenland safety in focus

Average speed cameras have been installed along the Forty Foot Bank Road between Chatteris and Ramsey in a groundbreaking attempt to reduce the number of people losing their lives by ending up in the water and drowning. Tony Taylorson finds out more about the latest improvements.

Fenland is at the national forefront of using these type of cameras to reduce casualties on roads next to waterways. By making drivers keep to the 50mph limit it will reduce the chance of them carrying out some of the more dangerous manoeuvres that have ended in tragedy.

Amanda Mays, County Council Accident Road Safety Team Leader, said: "My job is to find ways of saving lives.

"The installation of the average speed cameras came partially from in-depth investigations by the Council and partly from ideas suggested by residents and campaigners.

"Due to the steep and unstable nature of the banks it is a massive engineering challenge. But we looked at the accidents along the road and saw that many of them involved drivers carrying out manoeuvres at speed, such as dangerous overtaking.

"No scheme will prevent all accidents but we thought the cameras combined with an education campaign and working with the local media would be the best solution."

SUPPLIED BY THE HUNTS POST www.huntspost.co.uk

Cambridgeshire County Councillor Mac McGuire, Cabinet Member for Highways, picks up the story: "My main concern was that whatever we put along there worked. It has not been easy, both in terms of engineering and waiting for Government approval for the latest form of camera. But even when the posts went up we have seen a reduction in speeds and we believe in turn this will lead to a reduction in casualties.

"We listened carefully to what local people said and will continue to monitor the road. If successful we could see it used elsewhere, not just in Cambridgeshire, but the country."

The last word goes to the Editor of the Cambs Times paper John Elworthy, who has worked with the Council and campaigners to improve safety in Fenland.

He said: "Not only is it good to see that the cameras are up and working but it's a tribute to the County Council - both members and officers - that they worked so tirelessly to make this happen.

"The council's reaction to local communities and local campaigns to improve safety on our Fenland roads has been impressive and this is the latest initiative which I feel certain will contribute to making our roads safer.

"Ultimately we all need to look out for each other on the roads and to slow down and take care so we don't become another tragic story in my paper."

Facts about the Forty Foot Bank road

- Average speed cameras take a note of your number plate and the time it takes you to travel between them.
- **Before the cameras people have been caught travelling at over 100mph.**
- One fatal accident involved a driver overtaking at more than 80mph into the path of an oncoming car.
- **The fines are £60 and three penalty points on your driving licence**
- Between 2001 and 2009 there were 40 accidents and 67 people killed or injured between Wells Bridge and Leonards Child Bridge.
- **An education campaign asking drivers to take care alongside waterside roads has been running in Fenland.**
- From 2005 to 2009 accidents have dropped by more than 60 per cent where fixed camera sites have been put in place.

Lets get digital

The analogue TV signal will start to be switched off in Cambridgeshire on 30 March 2011 and replaced with a digital TV signal. This is not a concern for most people but some may find it harder to make the switch than others.

The Switchover Help Scheme has been set up by the Government and is run by the BBC. Its purpose is to make digital TV easy for older viewers and people with disabilities by converting one of their televisions to digital, so they are not left without TV after the switchover.

You are eligible for help if you are:

- aged 75 or over,
- have lived in a care home for six months or more,
- get or could get disability living allowance, attendance or constant attendance allowance, or mobility supplement,
- Registered blind or partially sighted.

Every eligible person will shortly receive a Switchover Help Scheme information pack in the post (pictured) explaining the options for switching to digital. For more information you can ring The Help Scheme on 0800 408 7654 or visit www.helpscheme.co.uk.

In addition, Cambridgeshire Trading Standards is making sure that residents can find information about the Switchover and are not misled by Rogue Traders. Simply visit the Digital UK website www.digitaluk.co.uk or ring 08456 50 50 50, or to find a registered

aerial installer visit www.rdi-lb.tv or call 01353 644040.

If somebody calls at your door claiming to be a representative from these schemes, call the Police. Or, if you are not satisfied with any work done, then call Consumer Direct 08454 04 05 06.

Remember, no one from Digital UK or the Switchover Help Scheme will call at your door.

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Adult Education

New courses are shown in bold

Course	Day	Time pm (unless otherwise stated)	Start date	No. of weeks	Tuition fee (£)
Modern Languages					
Saturday Schools					
Spanish absolute beginners level 1	Sat	10am-12 noon	25 Sept	10	90
Italian absolute beginners level 1	Sat	10am-12 noon	25 Sept	10	90
Italian improvers	Sat	10am-12 noon	25 Sept	10	95
Evening					
Arabic absolute beginners level 1	Mon	7.00-9.00	20 Sept	10	95
Arabic beginners level 2/3	Tues	7.00-9.00	21 Sept	10	95
Chinese absolute beginners level 1	Wed	7.00-9.00	22 Sept	10	95
Chinese beginners level 2	Mon	7.00-9.00	20 Sept	10	95
Chinese improvers	Thurs	7.00-9.00	23 Sept	10	99
French absolute beginners level 1	Tues	7.00-9.00	21 Sept	10	90
French beginners level 2	Mon	7.00-9.00	20 Sept	10	90
French beginners level 3	Tues	7.00-9.00	21 Sept	10	90
French improvers	Wed	7.00-9.00	22 Sept	10	95
French advanced conversation	Mon	7.00-9.00	20 Sept	10	95
French intermediate GCSE	Tues	7.00-9.00	21 Sept	30	275*
French AS level	Thurs	6.30-9.00	23 Sept	30	410*
French A2 level	Thurs	6.30-9.00	23 Sept	30	410*
German absolute beginners level 1	Mon	7.00-9.00	20 Sept	10	90
German beginners level 2	Wed	7.00-9.00	22 Sept	10	90
German beginners level 3	Tues	7.00-9.00	21 Sept	10	90
German improvers	Mon	7.00-9.00	20 Sept	10	95
German advanced conversation	Wed	7.00-9.00	22 Sept	10	95
German intermediate GCSE	Thurs	7.00-9.00	23 Sept	30	275*
Italian absolute beginners level 1	Thurs	7.00-9.00	23 Sept	10	90
Italian beginners level 2	Tues	7.00-9.00	21 Sept	10	90
Italian beginners level 3	Tues	7.00-9.00	21 Sept	10	90
Italian improvers	Mon	7.00-9.00	20 Sept	10	95
Italian advanced conversation	Tues	7.00-9.00	21 Sept	10	95
Italian GCSE	Tues	7.00-9.00	21 Sept	30	275*
Italian AS level	Thurs	6.30-9.00	23 Sept	30	410*
Italian A2 level	Wed	6.30-9.00	22 Sept	30	410*
Japanese absolute beginners level 1	Mon	7.00-9.00	20 Sept	10	95
Japanese improvers	Tues	7.00-9.00	21 Sept	10	99
Modern Greek absolute beginners level 1	Wed	7.00-9.00	22 Sept	10	95
Modern Greek improvers	Tues	7.00-9.00	21 Sept	10	105
Polish absolute beginners level 1	Mon	7.00-9.00	20 Sept	10	99
Russian absolute beginners level 1	Thurs	7.00-9.00	23 Sept	10	95
Spanish absolute beginners level 1	Mon	7.00-9.00	20 Sept	10	90
Spanish beginners level 2	Wed	7.00-9.00	22 Sept	10	90
Spanish beginners level 3	Mon	7.00-9.00	20 Sept	10	90
Spanish improvers	Mon	7.00-9.00	20 Sept	10	95
Spanish advanced conversation	Tues	7.00-9.00	21 Sept	10	95
Spanish intermediate GCSE	Wed	7.00-9.00	22 Sept	30	275*
Spanish AS level	Thurs	6.30-9.00	23 Sept	30	410*
Spanish A2 level	Wed	6.30-9.00	22 Sept	30	410*
Turkish absolute beginners level 1	Tues	7.00-9.00	21Sept	10	99
*Fees exclude examination registration costs					
English as a Foreign Language (EFL)					
Business & Professional English	Thurs	7.00-9.00	23 Sept	10	95
EFL - pre-intermediate*	Tues	7.00-9.00	21 Sept	10	95
EFL - intermediate*	Tues	7.00-9.00	21 Sept	10	95
EFL - upper intermediate*	Tues	7.00-9.00	21 Sept	10	95
EFL - advanced*	Tues	7.00-9.00	21 Sept	10	95
Report writing & presentation skills	Thurs	7.00-9.00	23 Sept	10	95
IELTS Preparation Course	Thurs	7.00-9.00	23 Sept	10	95
*Assessment & guidance takes place during the first session. **Please arrive at 5.50pm** for this session.					
GCSEs/AS/A2 levels					
Art & Design AS/A2 level	Mon	6.30-9.00	20 Sept	30	430
English GCSE	Tues	7.00-9.00	21 Sept	30	275
French GCSE	Tues	7.00-9.00	21 Sept	30	275
French AS level	Thurs	6.30-9.00	23 Sept	30	410
French A2 level	Thurs	6.30-9.00	23 Sept	30	410
German GCSE	Thurs	7.00-9.00	23 Sept	30	275
Italian GCSE	Tues	7.00-9.00	21 Sept	30	275
Italian AS level	Thus	6.30-9.00	23 Sept	30	410
Italian A2 level	Wed	6.30-9.00	22 Sept	30	410
Latin GCSE	Tues	7.00-9.00	21 Sept	30	275
Maths GCSE	Wed	7.00-9.00	22 Sept	30	275
Psychology AS level	Tues	6.30-9.00	21 Sept	30	410
Spanish GCSE	Wed	7.00-9.00	22 Sept	30	275
Spanish AS level	Thurs	6.30-9.00	23 Sept	30	410
Spanish A2 level	Wed	6.30-9.00	22 Sept	30	410
Fees exclude examination registrations costs		* Fees also exclude perfomance/assemssment costs			
Professional Training					
Basic book-keeping	Mon	7.00-9.00	20 Sept	8	79
Design & build your own website	Wed	7.00-9.00	22 Sept	10	150
Counselling					
Daytime					
Introduction to Counselling skills	Mon	9.45-11.45am	20 Sept	10	99
Intermediate Certificate in Counselling skills (AQA)	Mon	9.45am-12.30	20 Sept	28+2.5 Sat. w/shops	599*
Advanced Certificate in Counselling skills (AQA)	Thurs	9.30am-12.45	23 Sept	26+2.5 Sat. w/shops	670*
Advanced Certificate in Counselling Psychodynamic unit VC24 (AQA)	Tues	9.30am-12.45	18 Jan 2011	10+1.5 Sat. w/shops	377*
Evening					
Counselling skills-taster workshop beginners	Mon	6.15-7.45	6 Sept	1 session	15
Introduction to Counselling skills	Thurs	6.30-8.30	23 Sept	10	99
Intermediate Certificate in Counselling skills (AQA)	Wed	6.15-9.00	22 Sept	28+2.5 Sat. w/shops	599*
Advanced certificate in Counselling skills (AQA)	Thurs	6.15-9.30	23 Sept	26+2.5 Sat. w/shops	670*
Advanced certificate in counselling Humanistic unit VC23 (AQA)	Thurs	6.00-9.15	16 Sept	10+1.5 Sat. w/shops	377*
Advanced Diploma in Counselling (AQA)	Wed	4.45-9.00	8 Sept	37+9 Sat. w/shops	2950*

* Excluding the cost of examination fees (based on 2008-09 figures; £93.10 for the Intermediate course, £66.80 for the Advanced course core unit & £31.40 for the Advanced coursee psychodynamic unit)

Course	Day	Time pm (unless otherwise stated)	date	weeks	Tuition fee (£)
Saturday Schools					
Spanish absolute beginners level 1	Sat	10am-12noon	25 Sept	10	90
Italian absolute beginners level 1	Sat	10am-12noon	25 Sept	10	90
Music GCSE	Sat	10am-12noon	25 Sept	30	275***
Photography on location workshop	Sat	10am-1.00	25 Sept	1	£60 for all 4 or £17 each
	Sat	10am-1.00	9 Oct	1	
	Sat	10am-1.00	6 Nov	1	
	Sat	10am-1.00	20 Nov	1	
Bicycle maintenance - spring into action	Sat	10am-2.00	9 Oct	1	25
Colour, style & make-up workshop	Sat	10am-3.30	9 Oct	1	30*
Cookery - Breadmaking ‡	Sat	10am-1.00	9 Oct	1	80
Egyptian belly dancing	Sat	10am-11am	9 Oct	1	9
Fascinator workshop	Sat	10am-3.00	9 Oct	1	30**
Flower designs for gifts	Sat	10am-3.30	9 Oct	1	35*
Jewellery workshop	Sat	10am-2.00	9 Oct	1	25*
Local History	Sat	10am-2.00	9 Oct	1	25
Papercrafts workshop (decoupage & iris folding)	Sat	10am-1.00	9 Oct	1	20*
Yoga (Hatha) & the Chakras	Sat	10am-12noon	9 Oct	1	15
Bicycle maintenance-spring into action	Sat	10am-12noon	13 Nov	1	25
Clothes, accessories and image impact	Sat	10am-1.00	13 Nov	1	20*
Cookery-Cooking for Christmas ‡	Sat	10am-1.00	13 Nov	1	80
Bridal Fascinator workshop	Sat	10am-3.00	13 Nov	1	30†
Festive flower designs for the home	Sat	10am-3.30	13 Nov	1	35*
Yoga (Hatha) & the Chakras	Sat	10am-12noon	13 Nov	1	15

* An additional £5 material fee applies to this workshop ** An additional £10 material fee applies to this workshop
*** Fee excludes examinatin registration costs and performance/assessment costs
† An additional £15 material fee applies tothis workshop
‡ These workshops are provided at the Cambridge Cookery School, Purbeck Road, off Hills Road

Recreational courses					
Dance					
Ballroom dancing - beginners	Mon	6.00-7.30	20 Sept	10	69
Ballroom dancing - improvers	Mon	7.45-9.15	20 Sept	10	69
Egyptian belly dancing	Thurs	6.00-7.30	23 Sept	10	69
Salsa dancing - beginners	Wed	7.30-9.00	6 Oct	10	69
Salsa dancing - improvers	Tues	7.45-9.15	5 Oct	10	69
Salsa dancing - advanced	Tues	6.00-7.30	5 Oct	10	69
Health & Well-being					
Indian head & shoulder massage - basic	Thurs	7.00-9.00	23 Sept	5	45
Indian head & shoulder massage - advanced	Thurs	7.00-9.00	4 Nov	5	45
Life coaching & self-development	Tues	7.00-9.00	21 Sept	6	59
Pilates - absolute beginners	Wed	6.45-7.45	22 Sept	10	55
Pilates - improvers 1	Wed	5.30-6.30	22 Sept	10	55
Pilates - imprvers 1	Fri	5.00-6.00	24 Sept	10	55
Pilates - improvers 2	Fri	6.00-7.00	24 Sept	10	55
Yoga Hatha-mixed ability	Mon	7.00-9.00	20 Sept	10	90
Writing & Media					
Creative writing - introduction	Tues	7.00-9.00	21 Sept	10	95
Continuing creative writing	Tues	7.00-9.00	21 Sept	10	95
Introduction to proof-reading	Thurs	7.30-9.00	23 Sept	8	69
Presentation skills (interviewing & speeches)	Tues	7.00-9.00	21 Sept	5	49
Other					
Basic book-keeping	Mon	7.00-9.00	20 Sept	8	79
Grow your own vegetables	Mon	7.00-9.00	20 Sept	6	55
Singing for fun	Tues	7.00-9.00	21 Sept	10	89†
Wine appreciation	Tues	7.00-9.00	21 Sept	10	89*
*Additional costs apply to theses courses according to the wines tasted.					
† An additional fee applies to this course for the purchase of sheet music (no more than £15)					
Art and Design					
Art & Design AS/A2 level	Mon	6.30-9.00	20 Sept	30	430‡
Art History	Mon	7.00-9.00	20 Sept	10	95
Ceramics	Mon	7.00-9.00	20 Sept	10	95*
Ceramics	Wed	7.00-9.00	22 Sept	10	95*
Ceramics	Thurs	7.00-9.00	23 Sept	10	95*
Drawing, the basics	Wed	7.00-9.00	22 Sept	10	95
Drawing, the next step	Mon	7.00-9.00	20 Sept	10	95
Interior design	Tues	7.00-9.00	21 Sept	10	95*
Life drawing	Thurs	7.00-9.00	23 Sept	10	95**
Painting for beginners	Wed	7.00-9.00	22 Sept	10	95
Painting exploring mixed media	Fri	6.30-9.00	24 Sept	8	95†
Painting oils & acrylics	Fri	6.30-8.30	24 Sept	10	95
Photography digital-beginners	Tues	7.00-9.00	21 Sept	10	95
Photography digital-beginners	Thurs	7.00-9.00	23 Sept	10	95
Photography digital-the next step	Wed	7.00-9.00	22 Sept	10	95
Photography digital-the next step	Thurs	7.00-9.00	24 Sept	10	90
Photography traditional-beginners	Mon	7.00-9.00	20 Sept	10	95*
Photography traditional & digital - improvers	Tues	7.00-9.00	21 Sept	10	95*
Photoshop (Adobe)-beginners	Tues	7.00-9.00	21 Sept	10	99
Portraiture	Tues	7.00-9.00	21 Sept	10	95**
Watercolour painting	Mon	7.00-9.00	20 Sept	10	95

‡ Fees exclude examination registration costs. †An additional £10 material fee applies to this course.
*An additional £15 material fee applies to this course.**An additional £20 material fee applies to this course.

ENROL NOW!

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www.hillsroad.ac.uk/adultEdCourses.aspx

Help for heroes

Not many people know that the County Council has members of staff who are reservists for the armed forces and have served abroad in places such as Afghanistan.

Former traffic engineer Andrew Caruana swapped his hard hat for a helmet and served in the Helmand Province.

During a firefight in Laskah Gah town centre his medical skills were called upon to stop his friend from bleeding after he was wounded in both legs.

This year Councillor Linda Oliver, Chairman of Cambridgeshire County Council, has pledged to support the charity Help for Heroes.

The charity raises funds to support service personnel and their families.

Councillor Oliver said: "The bravery and courage shown by our armed forces daily is something we should support. I was pleased to see the crowds that turned out to cheer

on and applaud the Royal Anglian Regiment this summer as it was given the freedom of Huntingdon, Ely and Cambridge.

"We should not forget the bravery and courage shown by their families as well who often are faced with an equally hard task at home while their loved ones are away.

"This year I will be supporting Help for Heroes and encouraging everyone to show their support too."

Band of mothers

Bereaved mum Christine Bonner, of Tydd Gote, knows personally the hardships and challenges faced by our service men and women as well as their families.

She said: "I lost my darling son Darren in Afghanistan in a horrific landmine explosion on Bank Holiday Monday, 28th May 2007. He was 31 years old with the rest of his life in front of him. He had two young sons that he left behind. No matter how much I wish it, I can't have my Darren back, but I want to do something useful and support his "Army Family" as I know he would want me to do this on his behalf."

Christine, together with some other mums who also lost their sons in Afghanistan, has been raising money for the Royal Anglian Regiment Memorial Fund which supports the fallen and injured soldiers and their families.

This summer she and 10 Royal Anglian soldiers, along with friends and family, returned from a 150 mile walk starting in Peterborough and finishing in Chelmsford.

The walk is called "All the 4s" 4 the boys, 4 the families, 4 the fallen, 4ever. The walk was given this name when she and some of the Regimental soldiers took to the highways and byways for the second time. This year's walk raised a whopping £44,000.

"The name will stay now every year but the route will change, taking in different scenery," Christine said.

She added: "I am sure Darren was walking with me, because I know that at times I just couldn't have done it alone. It is always an emotional time for us all. The public as always are so very kind and supportive of our troops. We know first hand how much our support and the public's support means to the men and women, sons and daughters, that are serving or have served. Be it a few pence for charity or a letter or parcel, it means a lot to them, especially when they are so far away from home and their loved ones.

"I would like to thank all those people who turned out and cheered or waved flags as the Royal Anglians marched this summer in Cambridge, Huntingdon and Ely. It means so much to them."

Donations are still coming in from the walk and can still be made. You can donate online at www.allthe4s.co.uk

Don't forget to add gift aid which means the charity will receive more money on top of the donation.

Alternatively you can send a cheque to The Royal Anglian Benevolent Fund, c/o Lt Col. Kevin Hodgson, R.A. The Royal Anglian Regiment, The Keep, Gibraltar Barracks, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3RN.

Please continue to support our local regiment as much as you always do.

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Welcome to NHS Cambridgeshire's pages on health related topics

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL NHS

NHS Cambridgeshire is the leader of the local NHS and commissions (or buys) care from a range of healthcare providers, on behalf of the people of Cambridgeshire.

With a budget of around £800 million, we are responsible for buying hospital care, community services, family doctor services and prescribed medicine.

For more information on the services that we provide please visit our website: www.cambridgeshire.nhs.uk

YOU ARE INVITED

SEPTEMBER 22

NHS Cambridgeshire's Annual General Meeting

22 September 2010

NHS Cambridgeshire's Annual General Meeting will be taking place at 6.30pm on 22 September 2010 at:

The Boathouse Business Centre, Wisbech, PE13 3BH.

Everyone is welcome to attend – further information can be found on NHS Cambridgeshire's website:

www.cambridgeshire.nhs.uk

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2009/10

Here is a brief update on some of the improvements we have made to services during 2009/10. Further information can be found on NHS Cambridgeshire's website (www.cambridgeshire.nhs.uk)

New Rheumatology Service for Fenland

- New rheumatology services are being provided at Doddington Hospital, with an additional outpatient clinic and a new way of providing rheumatology care.
- A team is provided by Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust that includes a consultant rheumatologist, a GP with a special interest in rheumatology and a specialist rheumatology nurse to provide outpatient services at the hospital.
- This new multi-disciplinary team will enable us to provide patients with faster access to appropriate care and treatment in order to deliver improved outcomes for outpatients.

Access to dentistry services

- Access to dentistry services within Cambridgeshire has improved over the past 12 months due to an additional investment of £1.2m in dental practices in Wisbech, March, Ely, Yaxley, Huntingdon, St Neots, Cambourne, Melbourne, Bassingbourne, Histon, Longstanton and in some parts of Cambridge City.
- To support this investment and to raise awareness of the services available, NHS Cambridgeshire ran a bus and poster campaign which helped to inform local people where NHS dentists are located across the county.

Healthy Living Nurse

- A Healthy Living Nurse has been employed to manage the care of patients with diabetes and cardio-vascular disease. Patients will be provided with regular clinical follow ups, education and training and ongoing support to encourage and motivate them to self manage their long term conditions, resulting in fewer hospital admissions and secondary care treatment.

We want to know your views on NHS community pharmacies and GP dispensing doctors...

To ensure NHS Cambridgeshire provides a good service for its residents, it is important that we regularly review our services.

As a result, we are consulting with patients, the public and other stakeholders to determine whether the number of community pharmacies and dispensing doctors in the county meets your needs, whether opening times are sufficient and to see if the county needs to include more pharmaceutical services, such as help and advice on how to quit smoking and get emergency contraception.

The information gathered through this consultation will enable us to look at how best to buy the services that people want from their community pharmacies and dispensing doctors in the future. It will also help us to establish if there are any gaps in services, to explore future provision and potential new services.

When are we consulting?

This consultation will run from 27 September – 25 November 2010.

You can give your views in a number of ways:

- Visit our website www.cambridgeshire.nhs.uk to download a copy of the consultation document with a questionnaire and supporting information.
- Request a hard copy of the consultation document with a questionnaire by calling our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on FREEPHONE 0800 279 2535 or 01223 725588 or email c-pct.pals@nhs.net.
- By calling PALS and speaking to one of our advisors on FREEPHONE 0800 279 2535 or 01223 725588.
- If you belong to a group or organisation, you can invite us along to one of your meetings. If you would like us to come and speak to your members/residents/staff please call freephone 0800 279 2535 or 01223 725588 or by email to yourviews@cambridgeshire.nhs.uk.

What happens next...

Over the coming months we shall carefully be considering your views and the comments you've made.

- January 2011 – we take your views into account and present them in a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment paper to NHS Cambridgeshire Board members.
- 1 February 2011 – the final Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment paper setting out future services, including recommendations from the consultation, will be published on our website at www.cambridgeshire.nhs.uk in the 'Have your Say' section.

The **future of healthcare** in Cambridgeshire

There has been much talk recently about the coalition government's plans to introduce GP Clusters - and how this will change the way in which health care services are currently commissioned (bought).

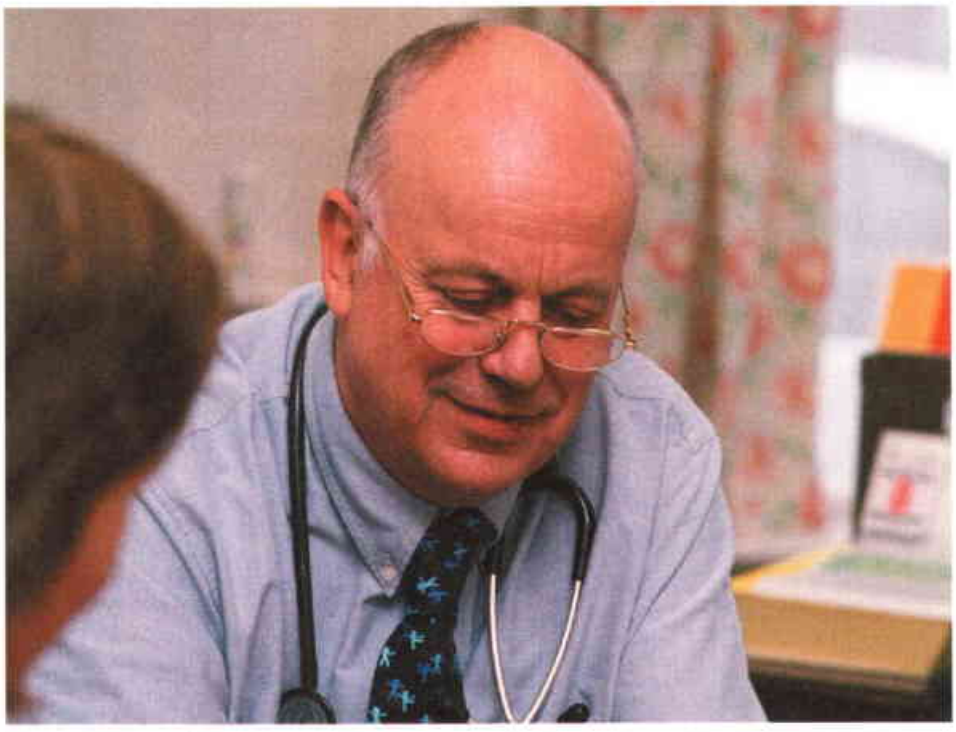
Here we provide an update on the changes that are taking place in the county and how these will affect people living in Cambridgeshire.

NHS Cambridgeshire has for some time been planning changes to the way it commissions health services on behalf of local people. A new model has been developed which seeks to make decisions about health care much more local, which will be driven by GPs.

The new system, will bring clinical and financial responsibility together, by empowering GPs to buy health care services on behalf of their patients. The aim of the new system is to improve patient experience, services and outcomes for patients - and, at the same time, use resources more efficiently.

The new system of commissioning services will involve GP Clusters. This is where GP practices come together with a delegated responsibility for commissioning a range of services for their patients.

The GP Clusters will commission a range of agreed services for their patients.



Although they will be responsible for the full budget of each of their patients, clusters are likely to ask NHS Cambridgeshire to continue to carry out some duties on their behalf for the time being. NHS Cambridgeshire will also continue to do some of the commissioning for patients too.

The first pilot cluster schemes will be launched soon. To have your say on the future of healthcare go to: www.dh.gov.uk/liberatingthenhs.

PALS are here to help!

PALS (Patient Advice & Liaison Service) is a confidential service to help patients, carers and members of the public who need advice, have concerns about their health care - or are not sure where to turn for help.

PALS can help you find a local service - for example a GP or dentist, offer advice if you have a problem with any health related treatments you are receiving, or need help to resolve an issue.

What do PALS do?

- Advises and supports patients, their families and carers
- Provides information on NHS services
- Listens to your concerns and suggestions
- Helps sort out problems quickly on your behalf

How to contact PALS:

NHS Cambridgeshire PALS team are based at: Lockton House, Clarendon Road, Cambridge, CB2 8FH

Freephone: 0800 279 2535
Telephone: 01223 725588
Email: c-pct.pals@nhs.net

NHS Cambridgeshire helps you to Choose Well this Winter

NHS Cambridgeshire is reminding people to 'Choose Well' if they need medical attention over the Winter.

Choose Well is the national campaign to help people find the right care closer to home when they need it.

Self Care Is the best choice to treat very minor illnesses and injuries which can be treated at home simply by combining a well-stocked medicine cabinet with plenty of rest. Ensure your medicine cabinet includes:

- Paracetamol or aspirin
- Anti-diarrhoeal medicine
- Rehydration mixture
- Indigestion remedy
- Plasters and a thermometer

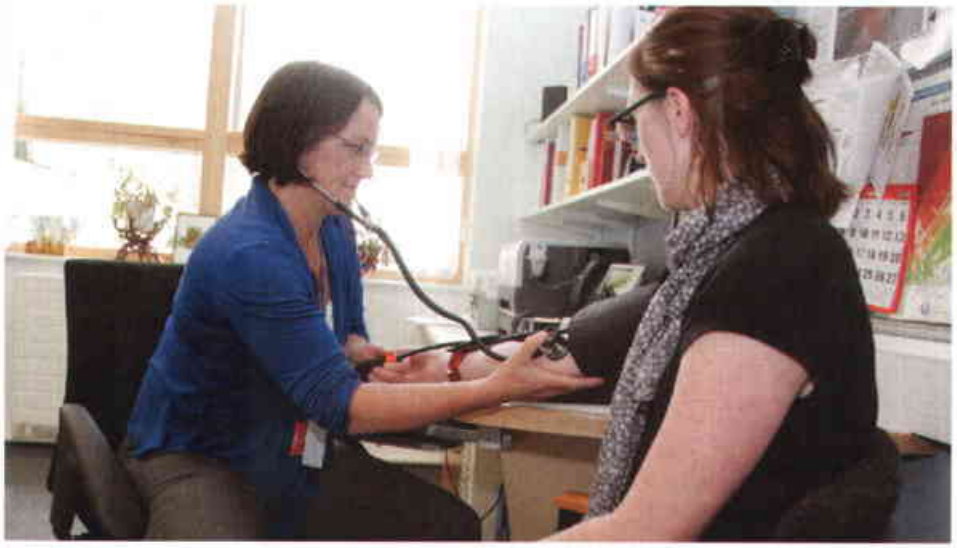
NHS Direct Confidential information around the clock on all aspects of health and healthcare is available from NHS Direct at www.nhs.uk or on 0845 46 47. Online you can check your symptoms, check hundreds of conditions and treatments and find telephone numbers and addresses for most NHS organisations.

Pharmacist In many cases a visit to your local pharmacist can provide advice on common illnesses and the best medicines to treat them. To find your local pharmacist, including details of opening hours call NHS Direct on 0845 46 47 or go to: www.nhs.uk/servicedirectories.

GP If you have a minor illness or injury that needs treatment you should call your GP. They provide a range of services by appointment, including medical advice, examinations and prescriptions. An out-of-hours service is also available for urgent problems. To find your local GP surgery contact NHS Cambridgeshire PALS on 0800 279 2535 or 01223 725588.

Minor Injuries Units Are for minor injuries such as cuts and grazes, minor burns and scalds, bites and stings, strains and sprains and minor eye or ear problems. Your nearest minor injury unit is at:

- North Cambridgeshire Hospital, The Park, Wisbech PE13 3AB tel: 01945 488 068
- Princess of Wales Hospital, Lynn Road, Ely CB6 1DN tel: 01353 656 675
- Doddington Community Hospital, Benwich Road, Doddington PE15 0UG tel: 01354 644 243
- St Neots Health Centre, 24 Morres Walk, St Neots PE19 1AG tel: 01480 219317



Accident and Emergency departments
Should only be used in a critical or life-threatening situation. A&E departments provide immediate emergency care for people who show the symptoms of serious illness or are badly injured. Dialling 999 and stating a medical emergency will result in a response vehicle being sent to you.

Your nearest A&E department is at:

- Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 0QQ tel: 01223 245 151.
- Hinchingbrooke Hospital, Hinchingbrooke Park, Huntingdon, PE29 6NT tel: 01480 416416.
- Peterborough District Hospital, 3 Thorpe Road, Peterborough PE3 6DA tel: 01733 874000.
- The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gayton Road, King's Lynn, PE30 4ET tel: 01553 613613.

In Cambridgeshire a group of health and social care leaders are working together to develop better access to community services for residents. If you have an opinion on health or social care in your community that you want to share with this group then please contact Ewan Kelsall at NHS Cambridgeshire, Lockton House, Clarendon Road, Cambridge, CB2 8FH or email: ewan.kelsall@cambridgeshire.nhs.uk

Choose Well out of hours

If your local GP surgery is closed and you have a medical need that can't wait, you should ring your normal GP surgery number.

When can you get out of hours services?

Depending on when your surgery closes, the out of hours services operate during the following times:

- Monday to Friday 6.30pm to 8.00am
- 24 hours a day on Saturdays and Sundays
- 24 hours a day during Bank Holiday periods

You may be directed to one of the out of hours Primary Care Centres which are based at North Cambridgeshire Hospital, Wisbech, Doddington Hospital, Princess of Wales Hospital Ely, Hinchingbrooke Hospital Huntingdon and Chesterton Medical Centre Cambridge. GPs, nurses and other staff are based at these centres, plus they act as bases for the GPs who make home visits during out of hours.

What if I have a concern or want to complain about out of hours services?

Should you experience any concerns or problems with the service contact your local NHS Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) who provide friendly and professional advice.

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If you have already registered to take part, thank you very much.

For further information and to register your interest in taking part, please visit the study web page at

www.cambridgecommutingstudy.org.uk

or contact the study office at the MRC Epidemiology Unit by email at **commutingstudy@mrc-epid.cam.ac.uk** or by telephone on **0800 917 3319**

This study is organised by the MRC Epidemiology Unit in Cambridge in collaboration with the University of East Anglia and University College London and funded by the National Institute for Health Research

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Care Quality Commission

Could you be a vital link

Mark Miller found out more about the Link Service and how it needs your help to carry on giving families and children a much needed break.

You may not have heard of them, but Cambridgeshire County Council has a band of unsung heroes who provide vital short breaks and a home from home for children with disabilities.

Link provides short breaks for disabled children in a Link Carer's home, for anything from a day a month up to several days and nights a week.

Link gives parents a much needed break from the high demands of caring for a disabled child, and time to spend with other children in the family who may sometimes get overlooked due to the needs of their sibling.

Carrie Cassels, Link Service Manager, said: "The 'Link Child' gets a 'home from home' experience with a carer and their family, often having the chance to experience activities and friendships which they may not otherwise get.

"Our carers provide a lifeline for families and a caring home for the children. They are real heroes as it can be a tough but very rewarding job and many of our carers strike up lasting friendships with the children and families. Families know that when they leave their children that they will be well cared for.

"We provide all our carers with the necessary training and support they need. However, over recent years, our need for carers with experience in working with disabled children has increased, due to the more complex referrals made to us. Which is why we need more people to come forward."

If you would like to find out more about becoming a Link carer call 0800 052 0078.

WE NEED YOU

We currently have a list of around 30 children across the county who could receive Link care. We are really keen to hear from anyone who has experience caring for children with autism or complex health needs.

Anyone who would like to work from home caring for disabled children and who is willing to go through a rigorous approval process, should contact our enquiry line on 0800 052 0078.

What is a Retained Carer?

In January this year we approved our first Retained Carer.

A Retained Carer is a carer who works from home and agrees to care for up to nine children a year, at different times, for a maximum of around 200 nights a year. Retained Carers are paid a retainer per month, plus additional payments depending on the age of a child.

Meet retained link carer Laura and her family

As far as Laura is concerned, becoming a Retained Link Carer is "the best thing I've ever done".

She and her husband Terry have cared for many children over the years, in particular children who had more challenging needs. They have three children of their own, so of course it's been a family affair, as it is for all our carers with children of their own.

The Council has been able to place seven children with Laura who had been on our referral list for a long time - up to two years.

She said: "I have gained a lot of experience, and seen first hand the positive influence that good support, effective communication, and an understanding of young people's needs can have on a family unit. Link care enabled me to encourage young people in many different aspects of their life. The whole link experience has not only been and continues to be, very positive for me, but also my own children. They have grown up with a good understanding of the differences some people have to live with, and the challenges this brings. I believe that close contact with many young people has helped my own three children grow into mature, grounded and compassionate people."

Laura lives in Sawtry and for many years she worked as a learning support assistant in a special school, gaining wide experience and training. In her spare time, she has been a Link Carer since 2003.

In recognition of her skills, Laura became a Link Plus carer soon after her approval and was very busy caring for three children until she became a Retained Carer - she has particular skills in caring for autistic children. Last year, through Link, Laura obtained her NVQ 3 in social care and working with children.

Carrying the torch for Cambridgeshire

The Olympic torch could be coming to Cambridgeshire as part of a national tour in the run-up to the 2012 Olympics.

Councils and other organisations such as Cambridge University and the Imperial War Museum Duxford put together a bid full of eye-catching ideas which will be considered by the London 2012 organisers when they plot the route of the flame around the country during the summer of 2012.

The torch will be in the Eastern region for just three days, and in that time will have to cover six counties.

So it was important to make Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's ideas as attractive as possible to the organisers.

The ideas included:

- Carrying the torch on a rowing 'eight' along the river Cam or Ouse
- Punting the Torch along the Cam in Cambridge
- Recreating the famous "Chariots of Fire" run around the Great Quad at Trinity College
- An event at Parker's Piece in Cambridge, where the modern rules of football were invented
- Linking Kings College in Cambridge with Ely and Peterborough Cathedrals

Cllr Martin Curtis, Cambridgeshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Children, said: "I am very excited by the prospect of the Olympic torch coming to the East of England. I was impressed with our ideas - they had vision and imagination. It is now up to the London organisers to decide which route the torch will take, but I am confident that Cambridgeshire will be in the reckoning."

Your Cambridgeshire Magazine – how do YOU want information and news from the County Council?

We've worked hard to make Your Cambridgeshire Magazine value for money.

It costs just 20p per household to send you 4 editions a year.

But when money to fund public services is tight, the County Council has to make sure every penny is well spent.

So we are asking you whether you still want to receive the magazine, and if not, how you would like to receive news and information from the Council.

There are a number of options we could consider - for example, replacing Your Cambridgeshire with a single, joint magazine covering County and District Councils and other public services, placing updates from the County Council in local newspapers, or sending out the magazine via email and giving it a higher profile on our website.

- Email or write to us with your suggestions - email: **feedback@cambridgeshire.gov.uk** or write to us at **Customer Feedback, Cambridgeshire County Council, RES1225, FREEPOST CB176**

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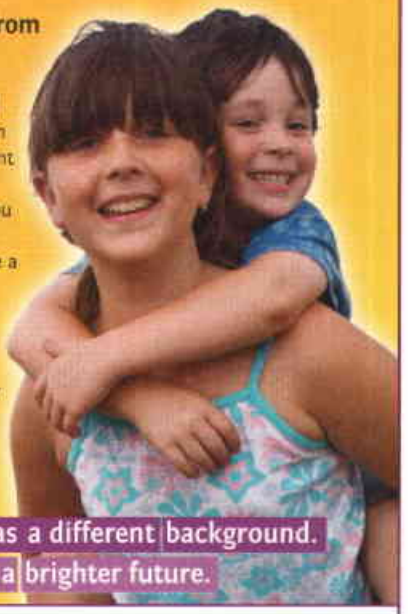

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The secrets under your feet

From anarchist castles to where Fenlanders fought the Romans there is a wealth of history under our feet or just around the corner in Cambridgeshire.

Hundreds of people took the opportunity to learn more about the local history with guided tours by our archeologists.

There have been finds days, such as that at Ely Museum and a family day at Wandlebury Iron Age Hillfort.

But don't despair if you missed the guided tours. There are a number of places around Cambridgeshire where you can go and find out more about the local history, battles and mysteries that surround them.

For more information go to www.cambridgeshrie.gov.uk/archaeology

Youngsters get job connexions

A new 'find a job' feature has been added to the Connexions Youthoria website to help more young people to find a job.

Young people can log onto the new feature at www.youthoria.org/findajob, which includes facilities to search for job vacancies, apply for jobs and receive vacancy alerts by text and/or email.

'Find a job' also allows young people to create a CV, which can be printed, emailed and exported, ready to give to a potential employer.

Schools' futures saved

The County Council has secured £100 million worth of Building Schools For The Future investment to redevelop school buildings.

This money will see the redevelopment of the Thomas Clarkson Community College, Wisbech, Neale-Wade Community College, March, Sir Harry Smith Community College, Whittlesey and Cromwell Community College in Chatteris.

Cambridgeshire County Councillor Martin Curtis, Cabinet Member for Children, said: "Officers and councilors worked hard to secure these much needed funds which will help improve the facilities and ultimately the education and future for pupils at these schools."

Praise for shared services

The Government has praised a scheme that will save tax payers millions of pounds by bringing together 'back office' services at Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire County Councils.

Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government Eric Pickles, said: "I applaud Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire for showing real initiative in achieving major savings in a way that protects frontline services that matter most to residents.

"There are a growing number of local authorities and other public bodies across the country coming up with innovative ideas for sharing their back office functions like IT and finance, and I welcome this latest venture that puts the public first."

The project could see millions of pounds saved and lead to other councils joining the scheme.

Councillor John Reynolds, Cabinet Member for Resources and Performance at Cambridgeshire County Council, said: "The national financial situation has left public services making tough decisions. We have listened to the communities we serve who want us, if possible, to look for ways of protecting front line services. We already run a lean and efficient organisation so to make these savings the logical step is to work with Northamptonshire. This will lead to some staff reductions and that is a decision no one takes lightly, but means we can protect services elsewhere which provide support for vulnerable people who rely on us, such as children or elderly residents.

Safety improvement just the ticket

The Hills Road and Cambridge Rail Station area are undergoing major changes that will see improvements in public transport and safety for cyclists.

We are sorry for any delays we may be causing while these works are carried out but we hope the results will mean less congestion, accidents and pollution.

To avoid disruption, as much as possible, we have combined two major schemes as well as utility company works.

The Cambridge Gateway project will improve public transport and provide a safe, high quality new route for pedestrians and cyclists travelling to and from the station area.

The new dedicated bus link will help passengers to get to the station quicker and safer as it connects the junction of Hills Road and Brooklands Avenue into the station area. Currently some 50 buses use the station every hour.

The Hills Road Bridge improvements include installing permanent cycle lanes to improve safety and reduce congestion in this very busy area.

Over 4,000 cycling trips over the bridge are made every day and it had been a site of several accidents. The current works are making a successful pilot scheme to separate motorists and cyclists permanently.

It is expected to be complete in February 2011, with the majority of work on Hills Road Bridge due to be finished by Christmas.

The scheme is part of the County Council's commitment to providing sustainable transport for now and for the future. It is being funded by a £3 million grant from the Communities Infrastructure Fund while the work on Hills Road Bridge comes from developer contributions.

New community life for disused Foxton chapel

A disused chapel in Foxton is getting a new lease of life by helping a local learner centre expand and continue as a building for the community.

The Victorian Methodist chapel on Station Road will now form part of the Foxton Learner Centre which is next to the site.

Almost 130 years ago stones were laid for Charles Vinter and John Thurlbourn marking the building of the chapel. Now on that anniversary the keys have been handed over to the Centre for the building to open its next chapter.

Janet Corr, Head of the Foxton Learner Centre, said: "The community have been very welcoming and it would have been a shame to have to move so we can expand. Taking over the chapel means we can provide better facilities and further meet the needs of our youngsters. It also means this building remains in use for the whole of the village for a range of community events."

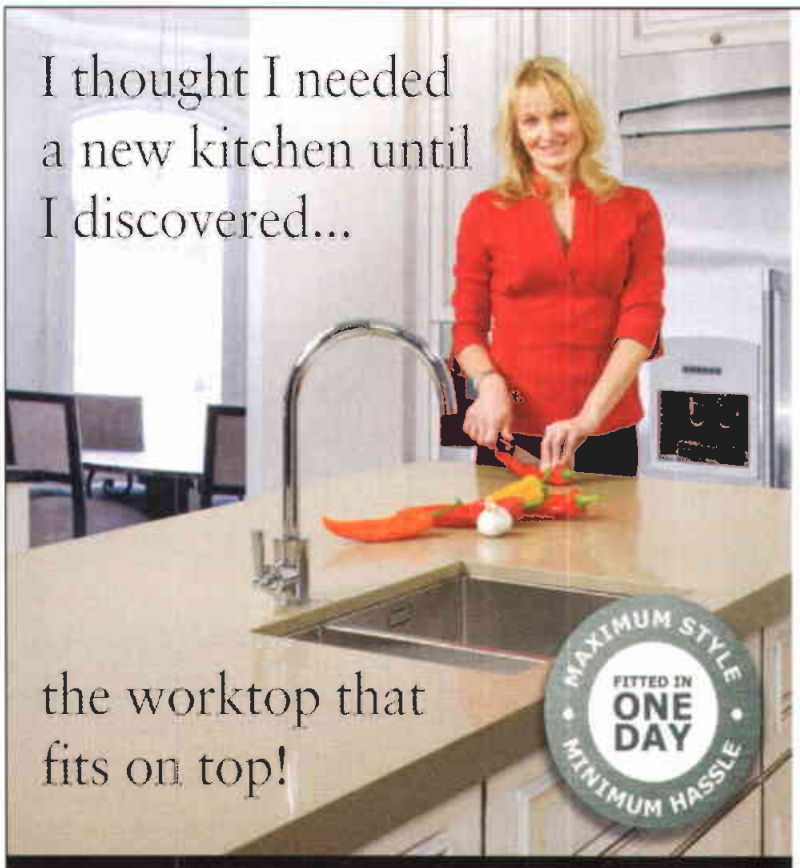
Getting Cycling Sorted

Cycling Sorted is a website project run by the Cycle Cambridge team to find out where you would like to make improvements to cycling facilities in Cambridge and the surrounding villages.

Whether it's new cycle parking, removing an obstruction along a cycle route or general improvements to your current cycle route, we would like to hear about it. Using the Suggest location pages you can pinpoint the location on the map, provide a brief description and upload a photo.

All information is passed onto the Cycle Cambridge team based at Cambridgeshire County Council who review each one in detail and, where changes are approved, arrange for the improvements to be carried out.

Visit www.cyclingsorted.org



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What's on

Your cut out and keep guide to What's On in Cambridgeshire

For other events happening near you or in Cambridgeshire please go to www.cambridgeshire.net. The web site is supported by the County Council and gives listings of a range of events.

Some of the details may change nearer the time so watch out for updates online and in the local press.

October

Until 31 October ***Cromwell Museum. Witch Hunt. The witchcraft trials of the 1640s (FREE exhibition).*** The activities of the Witchfinder General Matthew Hopkins in the eastern counties of England in the 1640s have been well documented and even the subject of a feature film. The reality of what actually happened is the subject of this absorbing travelling exhibition.

Night ride. Cycle Cambridge are planning a night time bike ride in October for when the clocks go back. Why not log onto www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk to find out the details, once they have been finalised.

4 October ***Beginners Family History Day' at Huntingdon Library and Archives.*** Includes sessions on using Ancestry (9.45am -12.30pm) and archive sources (2.30pm - 3.30 pm), £5 for both sessions, booking essential, further information. Please call 01480 372738 or e-mail Hunts.archives@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

9 October, 10am - 12pm ***Guided Nature Walk at Somersham Local Nature Reserve.*** Meet at Station Approach, Somersham. For more information contact Charlotte Lowry, on 01223 715557 or Charlotte.Lowry@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

13 October - 14 October ***Skills Cambridgeshire (FREE) Wood Green Animal Shelter, Godmanchester.*** The careers and skills event for young people. Skills Cambridgeshire is a free skills and careers event for 14-19 year olds. It aims to inform and inspire young people with hands on features, activities and demonstrations offering an insight into different careers. www.skillscambridgeshire.co.uk

17 October, 9.30am - 1.30pm ***Conservation Work Party at Somersham Local Nature Reserve*** (Improving grassland/wildflower areas), meet at Springfield, Somersham. For more information Charlotte Lowry on 01223 715557 or Charlotte.Lowry@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

21 October, 2.30pm - 3.30pm ***Down Your Street' Investigating the history of your town or village.*** Huntingdon Library and Archive. Free event but please book in advance, Call 01480 372738 or e-mail Hunts.archives@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Have a civil time at Cromwell Museum

A treasure trove of history about Oliver Cromwell can be seen for free in Huntingdon.

From Oliver Cromwell's medicine chest to whole host of events for the family there is something to see for everyone at the Cromwell Museum.

John Goldsmith, curator of the museum, said: "Oliver Cromwell was born in Huntingdon in 1599 and he became Lord Protector in 1653, the head of a British republic. His rise to power was extraordinary. The purpose of the Cromwell Museum is to interpret his life and legacy through portraits, documents and objects associated with Cromwell.

"At his death on 3 September 1658 he was the head of state, and for some a 'king in all but name'. He is an intensely controversial and fascinating figure of British history."

The Museum opened in 1962 in the old grammar school where Cromwell had been a pupil. After leaving school Cromwell studied briefly at Cambridge before marrying and settling in Huntingdon. He later lived in St Ives and Ely.

Cromwell was driven by his religious commitment from the 1630s onwards. As MP for Cambridge he became an active soldier in the English Civil Wars of the 1640s. His success on the battlefield and his skill as a politician led him to power as Lord Protector.

But why not find out for yourself by visiting the museum, run by the County Council, and talking to the staff. The museum can be found in Huntingdon town centre at Grammar School Walk, Huntingdon, PE29 3LF or call, 01480 375830, e-mail: CromwellMuseum@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

The museum is open from April to October - Tuesday to Sunday 10.30am -12.30pm and 1.30pm -4pm. Between November to March - Tuesday to Friday and Sundays 1.30pm to - 4pm, Saturday 10.30am -12.30pm and 1.30pm - 4pm. The museum is closed on Mondays all year round.

November

10 November, 7.30pm ***The legacy of Oliver Cromwell in Parliament Lecture. Huntingdon Library and Archive - tickets £3.*** The significance of Cromwell in the development of Parliament is the theme of the annual Cromwell Collection lecture, given by Dr Stephen Roberts of the History of Parliament Trust.

11 November - 27 February ***Cromwell Museum The Cromwell Cup, a gift of Oliver Cromwell? (FREE exhibition).*** The Cromwell or Whorwood Cup, named after the family who at one time owned it, has an intriguing history. It is claimed that it was a wedding gift of Oliver Cromwell to his daughter. The cup is a private loan to the Museum for the exhibition.

13 November, 9.30am - 11.30am ***Guided Woodland Walk and Refreshments at Melwood Local Nature reserve.*** Meet at Meldreth Village Hall. For more information contact Charlotte Lowry on 01223 715557 or Charlotte.Lowry@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

19 November, 10am - 11am ***Down Your Street' Investigating the history of your town or village.*** Huntingdon Library and Archive. Free event but please book in advance, call 01480 372738 or e-mail Hunts.archives@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

20 November - Winter ***Conference of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society.*** Recent Archaeological Works in Cambridgeshire. At the Law Faculty in Cambridge. Tickets £5, contact www.camantsoc.org for more details.

21 November, 9.30am - 1.30pm ***Conservation Work Party at Somersham Local Nature Reserve*** (Improving grassland/ wildflower areas), meet at Springfield, Somersham. For more information contact Charlotte Lowry on 01223 715557 or Charlotte.Lowry@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Libraries at the heart of your communities

If you have an event and are looking for a place to hold it why not consider booking your local library meeting room.

Cambridgeshire libraries are much more than places to get a book and provide community facilities for many groups, including meeting rooms and exhibition spaces.

For example meeting rooms are now available at Central Library, Cambridge.

Other meeting room facilities are also available at Huntingdon Library and Archives, seating 20, 40 or up to 70 people. Other libraries with meeting room facilities seating 25-50 people are at Chatteris, Ely, March, Soham, Whittlesey and Wisbech.

Smaller 'interview' rooms seating 4-6 people are available at Central Library, Huntingdon, Ely, March, Whittlesey and Wisbech.

We offer: high quality rooms, good facilities, free use of the kitchenette (where available), screen and flip chart at larger venues all at affordable prices.

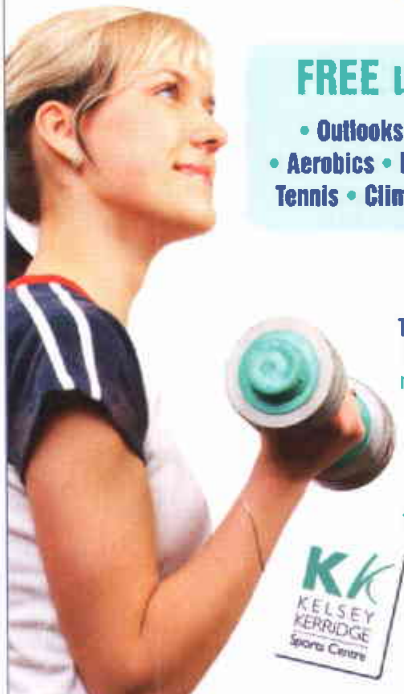
Please note that all charges are based on an hourly rate.

To book or check room availability (except Central Library) ring 0345 045 5225 or email your.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk. For Central Library log onto www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk and follow the links in the library section or call 07775691105 or e-mail: Bookings.CentralLibrary@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

35 Year Anniversary Celebration

Saturday 25th September

35 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



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www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/childcare

Students 'Kick Ash' at the House of Commons

Teenagers Katie France, Carlie and Jess Foster lit up the House of Commons with Kick Ash, a campaign led by young people to reduce smoking among under 16's in Cambridgeshire.

Carlie Foster said: "It's really exciting to bring Kick Ash to the House of Commons and meet with our MP James Paice to raise awareness about our campaign."

15 year olds from Bottisham Village College spoke to James Paice about how 250 young people at the school are backing Kick Ash by pledging to be smoke free.

They also discussed how tobacco companies use social networking sites to influence young people to smoke.

James Paice MP said: "I was not aware that social networking sites are being used in this way and am grateful for this being drawn to my attention. I greatly admire the work our young people are doing in our local area, and specifically in their own school, to encourage young people not to start smoking."

The Kick Ash campaign is supported by Cambridgeshire County Council and NHS Cambridgeshire. The campaign will visit nine other Cambridgeshire secondary schools over a two year period.

Improvements at Gypsy Bends

A £350,000 scheme to improve safety on the County's most serious accident site is due to start this month.

A section of the A1101, north of Wisbech and known locally as the Gypsy Bends, was the location of 23 accidents, including five fatal crashes between January 2005 and December 2009.

The safety works include widening out the bends and improving the road surface to reduce skidding.

To carry out these works as safely and quickly as possible it is planned to close the road in the first week of October for 10 days.

We apologise to motorists in advance for any disruption to journeys.

Including this scheme the Council has invested around £1.5 million in safety schemes in Fenland in the last three years.

Shape your place in Wisbeach

www.shapeyourplace.org is an innovative website, giving communities across Fenland the power to improve their neighbourhood.

Sandy Willatt, Commissioning and Performance Manager (Fenland), said: "ShapeYourPlace.org allows residents to use the website to communicate directly with local services and each other. Residents can post comments about issues affecting their communities and put forward ideas to improve their local area. They will receive a response back and at the same time they can look at all the issues that have been reported.

At the moment the website is being piloted in Wisbech and the surrounding villages but we realise that all communities across Fenland would like to have their say so ShapeYourPlace.org will be rolled out across the rest of Fenland from the autumn."

The website is being run by the Rosmini Centre in Wisbech supported by Cambridgeshire County Council, Fenland District Council, Cambridgeshire Constabulary and Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service.

The project has been funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government's Efficiency and Transformation Fund.

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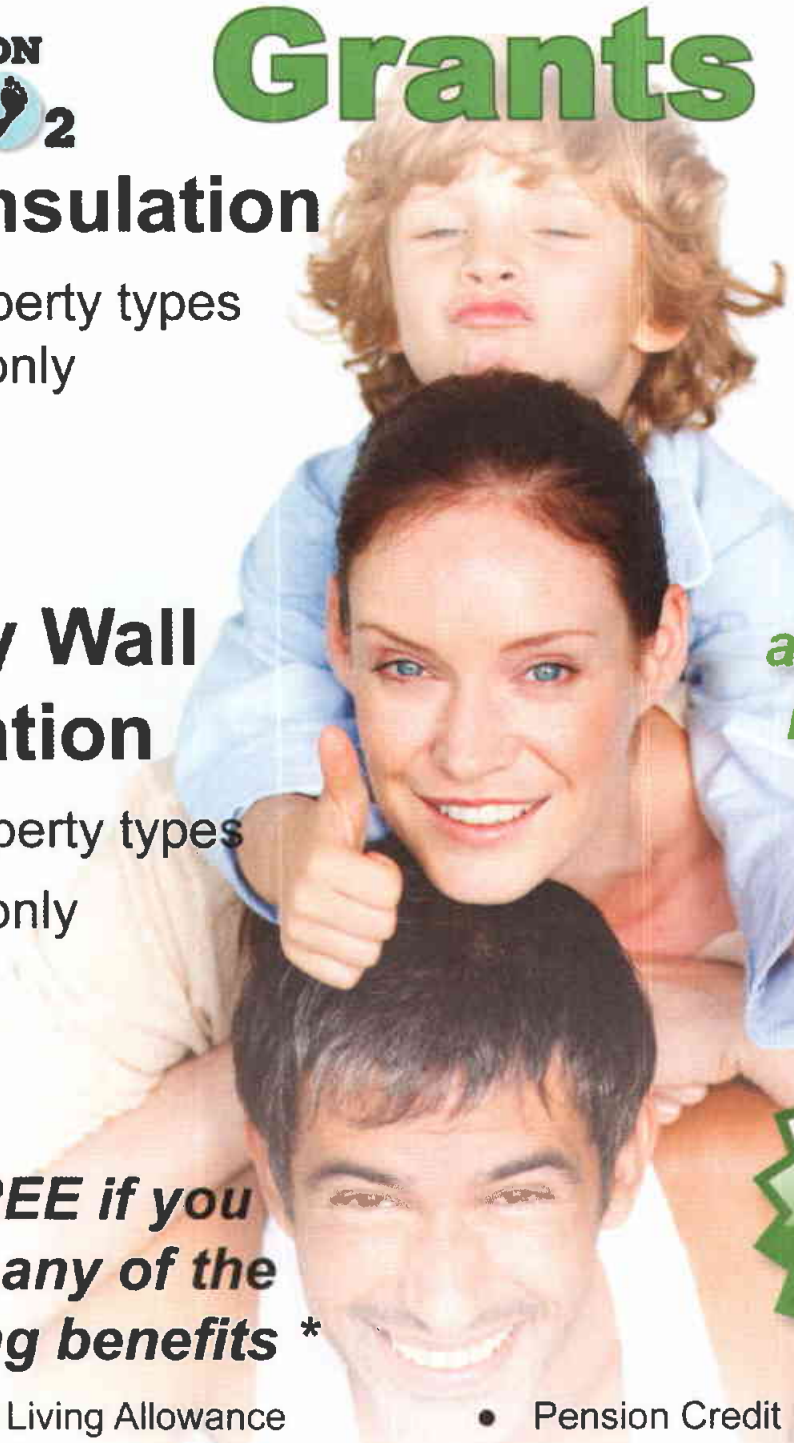

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* Free loft insulation only available if you currently have less than 3 inches.
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Big Society - big questions

Public services are facing unprecedented reductions in the amount of funding they receive from the Government. The Government's solution is a completely new approach - the Big Society. Here, we outline what the Big Society could mean for County Council services, and ask you for your views.

Councils, the police, the fire service and the NHS are going to have to make significant changes to their services as Government funding is reduced to deal with the national budget deficit.

Even the excellent record of councils like Cambridgeshire in achieving efficiency savings will not be enough to close the budget gap we are likely to be facing.

Some services will inevitably reduce or end. But there are other, innovative approaches we can take to providing services, as well as continuing to be more efficient.

One approach is the 'Big Society' - essentially, this means communities providing services for themselves in their local area, instead of them being provided by councils and other public services.

It might mean that community groups, businesses and volunteers are involved in running everything from schools and libraries to transport and social care.

Ultimately, in the Big Society, services in some communities will depend on the level of public involvement. Local people will concentrate efforts on the services they value the most.

Big Society - big differences?

Big Society concepts mean that services will be run differently - and much more, through volunteers instead of salaried employees.

On the next page, we outline two case studies, one based on the present day, and one based on a Big Society model, to illustrate how services might be run differently.

Meet the Joneses. The family have lived in a village close to one of the county's market towns for generations. Roger and Sarah Jones have recently taken early retirement.

Now

The Joneses live in a Band D Council Tax home, and pay just over £1,400 a year in Council Tax for council services. Roger and Sarah are both keen users of the library in their local town; they brought their daughter Tessa here regularly when she was growing up, and Tessa also went to the local Community College.

Their daughter Tessa works in Cambridge, and lives in the next village with her husband. They have just had their first child, and Tessa is on maternity leave. She regularly attends the free Baby Ryhme Time sessions which run in the library.

Roger's mother Margaret also lives in the village. She is 80 and really values her independence. She lives alone in the house she (and Roger) grew up in. Whilst she's still very mobile, she does need help to do some of her chores and other tasks around the home. Roger and Sarah help out when they can.

She likes to go into town when she can, but can no longer drive. There is a local bus service, subsidised by the County Council, but it doesn't run very often through their village. As such she's often reliant on Roger or Sarah to drive her.

There's a pub in the village, but there's not very much for younger people to do. Sarah's friend has recently set up a youth group in the village at the community centre, which is funded by the County Council. It's increasing in popularity, but there's a limited range of things that they can do. The club also relies on parents to take its members to activities outside the village, as well as the limited bus services which are subsidised by the County Council.

In the 'Big Society'

Roger and Sarah are both volunteer staff at the local library.

Roger helps with customer service. He works with library staff to help visitors to use the self-service system, and uses the catalogue to find the books and resourses they need, refering to specialist staff for detailed information. Sarah worked in computers until she retired - she now volunteers with the Engage IT project at the library, helping the over-50s to learn how to use computers and the Internet.

The management of the library has also changed - it's run by a not-for-profit trust, and its IT systems are shared across neighbouring counties.

Tessa now volunteers to help run the Baby Rhyme Time at the library, a half hour session of song and rhymes for parents and babies one morning each week. She's met lots of new people and finds it really rewarding.

Margaret now receives some extra help in her own home provided by volunteers from within the village. This helps her cope without feeling like she's relying too much on Roger and Sarah, and she enjoys the company.

When Margaret goes into town, she uses the local community transport scheme, operated by volunteer drivers. The group receives financial support from the Council to run local transport services. They are more efficient than subsidised bus routes, which the Council stopped providing - and can also be more flexible, providing a much more frequent service to smaller villages.

Community groups can also use the vehicles in the evening: Margaret's driver Dave also volunteers at the local youth group, which runs at the local community centre. The centre is now run and managed entirely by the community as a social enterprise. It relies on fees which small companies and local groups (like the youth group) pay to use the centre.

The youth group also makes regular use of the community transport minibus to take members to sports events or evening trips.

"The management of the library has also changed - it's run by a not-for-profit trust, and its IT systems are shared across neighbouring counties"

We want to hear your views on the Big Society. Would you volunteer to give up your time to help run services in your community? What would encourage you to do so? Use the space below to tell us what you think. Then cut out and send in an envelope to our FREEPOST address below - you don't need a stamp.

Please provide the first line of your address and your postcode.

postcode: ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐

Thank you for taking part. All responses will be treated in confidence. Any views provided will be used by Cambridgeshire County Council for research purposes. It may be published anonymously. Individual responses will not be passed on to any other organisation.

Send your responses to:

Big Society - Big Questions
FREEPOST CB176
Cambridgeshire County Council
RES 1101
Shire Hall
Cambridge CB3 0BR

Or email:
feedback@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

LETS MIX THINGS UP

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